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NPS in the News Weekly Media Report - Sept. 1-7, 2020

Naval Postgraduate School (U.S.)

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NPS IN THE NEWS

Weekly Media Report –Sept. 1-7, 2020

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FACULTY:

1. [Turkey's Muscle Flexing in the Med Isn't Just About Gas](#)

(*Bloomberg News 7 Sept 20*) ... Marc Champion

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ALUMNI:

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(*White House 4 Sept 20*)

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(*Herald Dispatch 6 Sept 20*)

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UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

September 14 – 18: [JIFX 20-4](#)

September 15: Quarterly Awards

September 21 – 24: [Warfare Innovation Continuum \(WIC\) Workshop](#)

September 25: Summer Quarter Graduation



FACULTY:

Turkey's Muscle Flexing in the Med Isn't Just About Gas

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Sailing through the Bosphorus Strait that divides Europe from Asia last year, a Turkish fleet saluted the tomb of 16th century pirate and admiral Barbarossa, reviving a tradition that harks back to when the Ottoman Empire ruled the Mediterranean Sea.

Little noticed abroad, the tribute by sailors returning from the country's largest-ever naval exercise now appears freighted with symbolism. As Turkey rebuilds its maritime might and contests disputed waters, it is once more in conflict with historic adversaries to the West.

International attention has focused on the race for offshore natural gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean that prompted not just Turkey, but also Cyprus, Egypt, Greece and Israel to claim rights in one of the world's most crowded seas. Yet the roots of the tensions run deeper.

The growth of the navy reveals the scale—often dismissed outside Turkey—of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ambition to assert his nation's interests as a specifically Muslim regional power, able to go toe-to-toe with Europe, Russia and the U.S.

Augmented by new domestically produced surface ships and submarines, the navy has already helped Erdogan to project force abroad with a success that has surprised and alarmed other littoral states. Larger frigates are in the pipeline, and a 27,000-ton light aircraft carrier is due by next year.

"Not far below the surface is a much more emotive set of issues, the idea that Turkey is the greatest power in the Eastern Mediterranean and should be treated as such," said **Ryan Gingeras, professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School** in California and a specialist in Turkish maritime affairs. "It perceives itself as surrounded by rivals and adversaries and it will use strength to assert itself, because it can."

Quicktake Mapping the Turkish Military's Expanding Footprint

The boom around Turkey's naval shipyards is part of a wider expansion of the domestic arms industry—from warships, to attack helicopters, to armed drones—aimed at gaining what Turkish officials call "strategic independence" from Western suppliers, now seen more as rivals than partners.

Erdogan has set a target of 2023, the 100th anniversary of the Republic, for Turkey to provide all of its own weaponry. That's unlikely to be met. There are also reasons to doubt whether a troubled \$750 billion economy can sustain his great power ambitions in the current climate. The European Union is also threatening sanctions over Turkey's activities in the region.

Still, Turkey's military has forced its way into Northern Syria, ensuring a seat at the table in developments there. In Libya, Turkish warships helped supply and support the besieged government in Tripoli, turning the tide of civil war in its favor.

Turkish naval flotillas also now routinely escort seismic research vessels into Greek and Cypriot-claimed waters as they explore for gas. Last month, that resulted in a collision with a Greek naval vessel as animosity between the two NATO members reached its highest point since a 1996 standoff over a pair of uninhabited Aegean islets that almost saw them go to war.

"Turkey will get its fair share in the Mediterranean, Aegean and Black Sea," Erdogan said in a speech on Aug. 26 to commemorate the first Seljuk Turk defeat of the Greek, Byzantine Empire, at the battle of Manzikert in 1071. "If we say we will do something, we will do it, and we will pay the price," he added, daring any nation to stand in the way.

A few days later, he marked another military victory over Greece, in 1922, by celebrating the production of Turkey's first ship-launched cruise missile, as well as "space trials" for a liquid-propelled rocket. And on Saturday, he appeared to threaten Greece directly, warning it would suffer "in the field" if it didn't reach a diplomatic settlement.

Just how literally to take Erdogan's belligerence is unclear. In a recent Bloomberg News interview, his spokesman and adviser, Ibrahim Kalin, said Turkey aimed to pressure Mediterranean partners to consider and negotiate Turkish interests in the region that had for too long been ignored.



Greece says that islands must be taken into account in delineating a country's continental shelf, in line with the UN Law of the Sea, which Turkey has not signed. Ankara argues that a country's continental shelf should be measured from its mainland. Both sides have offered to sit down for talks, though there's little prospect of that happening anytime soon.

Turkey's forceful approach is getting attention from other Mediterranean powers, but it has also left the nation of 83 million looking isolated.

Last week, a Turkish navy website expressed concern at Russian plans to hold live-fire exercises in the Mediterranean later this month. The U.S. partially lifted a decades-long arms embargo on Cyprus, divided since Turkey invaded the north in 1974 ostensibly to protect ethnic Turks. In a show of force, France briefly flew high-powered Rafale jets to an airbase on the Greek-speaking side of the island.

Erdogan's nationalist approach has broad political appeal, in a nation polarized between supporters of his brand of religious conservatism and of the secularism promoted by the Republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

"I'm a Kemalist, I'm totally against using Islam in politics," said Cem Gurdeniz, a retired admiral and former director of policy planning for the Turkish navy. Yet he shares Erdogan's belief that core interests of the U.S. and Western Europe are now opposed to those of Turkey.

In 2006, Gurdeniz produced the idea of an expansive "Blue Homeland" in the waters that surround Turkey, which has since been taken up by the state. He describes that vision as a call to defend Turkey's maritime rights, made in response to Greece's stance. He ridiculed the idea that offshore islands should supersede mainland claims to as many as 150,000 square kilometers (58,000 square miles) of continental shelf.

"Their mindset is so simple: We left Anatolia after defeat in 1923, but we kept the Aegean Sea," he said. "They think the Turks are a land people, so at sea they can take whatever they want. No, things have changed."

Based on current construction plans, Turkey's navy will soon outweigh its primary Greek competitor, long considered the stronger power at sea. A spokesman for the Greek Navy said neither the Defense Ministry nor the Navy would comment for this article.

None of this makes war between the two countries inevitable or even probable, but escalation risks are rising, according to Hugo Decis, a research analyst focused on naval affairs at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, a London-based security think tank.

"What we should be really worry about is the development of a dynamic of *fait accompli*, where Turkey starts to take the same kinds of steps as China," Decis said, referring to the militarization of reclaimed reefs in the South China Sea.

Last year's massive naval exercise was itself called "Blue Homeland." As the fleet honored Barbarossa, few personalities could have better reflected the growing rift in perceptions between Turkey and the West.

Remembered in Europe as a slave trader who ravaged the Mediterranean's northern coastlines, Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha is revered at home as a brilliant naval commander who, in 1538, defeated a combined fleet of Christian powers. For a brief three decades, he turned the sea into an Ottoman lake.

"This is not an issue of Turkey's internal politics," Gurdeniz said of Turkey's Mediterranean demands. "These are disputes that won't go away, even if the government changes."

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/turkey-s-muscle-flexing-in-the-med-isn-t-just-about-gas-1.1490338>

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ALUMNI:

U.S. President Trump Announces Intent to Appoint Individuals to Key Administration Posts 5 September

(White House 4 Sept 20)

Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key positions in his Administration:

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Jon C. Kreitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

Rear Admiral Kreitz was most recently the Deputy Director for Operations of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, where he led daily operations spanning the Indo-Pacific, Americas, Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Previously, Rear Admiral Kreitz served as the President of the Board of Inspection and Survey within the Department of the Navy. Prior to this position, he served as the Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. In this position, he drove the development, oversight, and administration of policies, programs, information systems, and budgets for nearly 870,000 Navy and Marine Corps military and civilian personnel.

Rear Admiral Kreitz has also served as the Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and commanded both the USS New York and the USS Stephen W Groves.

Rear Admiral Kreitz is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, **Naval Postgraduate School**, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, among other awards.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-appoint-individuals-key-administration-posts-090420/?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

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Dampier Named Interim Dean for MU College of Engineering

(Herald Dispatch 6 Sept 20)

David A. Dampier, Ph.D., associate dean for research and a professor of computer science at Marshall University, has been named interim dean of the university's College of Engineering and Computer Sciences.

Dampier replaces Wael Zatar, Ph.D., who has stepped down and will return to a faculty position in the college.

Prior to joining Marshall in July 2019, Dampier was the chairman of the Department of Information Systems and Cyber Security at the University of Texas at San Antonio and founding director of the Distributed Analytics and Security Institute at Mississippi State University. He has 70 peer-reviewed publications and more than \$50 million in external funding.

Before academia, he spent 20 years as an Army automation officer. He has a Ph.D. in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School. His research interests include cyber security, digital forensics and applications of software engineering.

Jaime R. Taylor, Ph.D., provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said the university plans to conduct a national search for a permanent dean.

https://www.herald-dispatch.com/business/personnel/article_6d2c8967-fb09-59b2-bc93-26b2b776b835.html

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Kings Mountain Native Retires from the Navy

(Gaston Gazette 6 Sept 20)

After 20 years of service, Commander Thomas Keith Morrow II is retiring from the United States Navy.

A native of Kings Mountain, he graduated from Kings Mountain High School in 1996. He went on to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2000 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering–aeronautical systems.

He also holds an executive masters in business administration degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and a masters of arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Commander Morrow is a naval aviator with over 1,900 flight hours in the T-34, TH-57, and H-60 aircraft. He completed flight training at Naval Air Stations Pensacola (Florida), Corpus Christi (Texas), and Whiting Field (Milton, Fla.), earning his “wings of gold” in 2002. After training as an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter pilot, he joined the HSL-46 “Grandmasters” at Naval Station Mayport near Jacksonville, Fla.

While there, he deployed on board USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47) in support of the Global War on Terrorism in 2003 and on-board USS DOYLE (FFG 39) conducting Counter-Narco Terrorism operations in 2005.

Commander Morrow also served on board USS WINSTON S CHURCHILL (DDG 79) and was recognized as part of the 2005 Naval Helicopter Association’s Region 3 Aircrew of the Year.

After graduating from the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center’s Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor (SWTI) course in 2006, Commander Morrow reported to Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Weapons School, Atlantic where he served as an instructor pilot and program manager for multiple tactical training programs.

While there, he earned the distinction as the most qualified pilot in the Wing, and in 2008 he was recognized as the HSM Weapons School, Atlantic Instructor Pilot of the Year. Commander Morrow then returned to HSL-46 where he served as the squadron’s Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor and Training Department Head.

In 2010, Commander Morrow joined the HSL-48 “Vipers” and served as the training and planning director prior to deploying in 2012 and again in 2013 as the officer-in-charge of aviation operations and maintenance on board USS HUÉ CITY (CG 66), “shotgun” escort for the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and Carrier Strike Group Eight.

After completing back-to-back deployments to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Arabian Gulf Security operations, Commander Morrow returned home to serve as the squadron’s director of Operations and Logistics and was recognized as the 2013 HSL-48 Officer of the Year.

Following a year at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., Commander Morrow joined the assistant secretary of the Navy, Financial Management and Comptroller, Office of Budget (FMB) at the Pentagon in Washington, DC in 2014, where he has served as the senior financial manager for the readiness portfolios, providing operations and maintenance funding for all of the Navy’s ships, aircraft, and shore facilities.

Commander Morrow’s personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), and numerous unit and campaign awards.

He is married to the former Elizabeth George from Reidsville, N.C., and together they have two daughters, Lyla and Caroline.

<https://www.gastongazette.com/news/20200906/kings-mountain-native-retires-from-navy>

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